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Circular for Bible Classes, Y.M.C.A.'s, etc.

NFSM ARCHIVES

SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION

International Bible Reading Association

NO sea captain would think of navigating his ship across the ocean without possessing good charts, enabling him to take advantage of favourable currents and prevailing winds, as well as to avoid rocks and dangerous shoals, and to steer his vessel in the direct course to its destined port. So, in the voyage of life, it is of the utmost importance that you should have a close acquaintance with the Bible, which is the only real and safe guide across the ocean of time to the haven of eternity. The hurry-scurry of business, and even pleasure too, has a strong tendency to thrust out of sight this precious Book, which alone is able to make us wise unto salvation. Many of you, no doubt, often feel that it has not that attention which it deserves; not that you are unwilling to consult it more frequently, but because so many things come in the way, and you are vexed to find that the silent counsellor has remained for the time overlooked and neglected.

Sometimes, perhaps, you have resolved to read a portion every day, and you have commenced at Genesis, intending to go straight through; but the difficulty of keeping the continuity from day to day, and the lack of something to fix the subject in your memory, has led to its becoming a mere mechanical duty, which has not seemed to bring any blessing with it, and left but little remembrance of the subjects read.

Now if you could have some plan laid down for you of short portions, which would vary narrative with the more spiritual parts of the Bible, and also give you a peg, so to speak, on which to hang each day's readings, it would be a great help to you.

In the International Bible Reading Association we think you will find just these advantages. The readings are *topical*—the subject of the "International Lesson" for the next Sunday, being taken up as the topic for the week, is read on Monday (sometimes extending also to Tuesday), and then, on the following days, portions from other parts of the Scriptures are selected. These either illustrate, explain, or enforce the subject, which, being kept in mind, secure some amount of thought, and so fixes the reading more surely in the memory.

Then, too, the fact of being a member of an Association numbering hundreds of thousands in all parts of the world who are reading the same word on the same day, becomes a stimulus to constant reading, and strengthens the determination that no day shall pass away without its portion of spiritual food.

Another important benefit will be secured in the daily preparation for the class study on Sunday, and more interest will certainly be felt in considering a subject which has been thought over more or less during the week.

The daily readings present the best possible studies in the movement for

"A Home Department of the Sunday School."

Probably a *Branch* will be formed in the Church or Sunday School with which your class is connected. If so you will have to give your name to the Branch Secretary, and three cents as your subscription to the Association, and in due course you will be furnished with a certificate of membership, which will contain a list of readings for the current year. Besides this, you will have handed to you every quarter an illustrated circular letter, and each month a four-page leaflet containing hints on the readings. No further contribution will be required from you until the New Year, and that all this can be done for the small amount subscribed is explained by the growing numbers of the Association, and the fact that it is conducted by those who seek no pecuniary reward, but love the work for the good which it is calculated to do, and which they have abundant testimony has already been accomplished.

Should no Branch be formed in your locality, you can join the Association by sending your name and the name of the Bible Class and Church with which connected, and six cents for postage of card and Monthly "Hints," to Mr. J. McNab, 125 Huntley St., Toronto. The leaflets will, in this case, be sent to you quarterly.